

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph at line 24, page 13, to read as follows:

EXAMPLE 1

Preparation of Oxidized Cellulose Acetate (OCA)

(1) 2 g of oxidized cellulose (carboxylic content 13.7%) was reacted with 10 ml acetic anhydride and 10 ml acetic acid in the presence of 0.5 ml sulfuric acid at 30-40°C for 2 hours. The reaction mixture was then poured into 50 ml ethyl ether. The resulting solid, ~~having a carboxylic content of 10.57% and acid number of 133.9,~~ was filtered, washed with water to pH 6 and then dried in a vacuum oven at 50°C to produce the desired product (yield 67%).